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ABSTRACT

This booklet was designed to aid parents in making things at home to develop their newborn to 2-year-old children's skills. Suggested are easy-to-make visual stimuli for infants up to 6 weeks of age and 6 weeks to 3 months of age. For the latter, tactile stimuli also are considered. For infants 3 to 6 months of age, objects providing visual, tactile, and/or auditory stimulation are suggested. Objects considered appropriate for infants 6- to 8-months-old, a period especially important for the development of intelligence, include aerosol can caps for stacking and nesting, a shaking and banging toy made of empty spools and a shoe string, a rattle box made from a compartmentalized clear plastic storage box containing small objects such as buttons, sequins, wooden beads, or unpopped popcorn in individual compartments, an oatmeal box drum, rolling cylinders made of empty salt containers filled with dried beans or rocks, a toy retrieval device to attach to a high chair, and a peek-a-boo book. Similar suggestions are made for infants 8 to 14 months of age and 14 months to 2 years of age. Line drawings illustrate the contents. The booklet cautions that homemade toys, household objects used as playthings, and bought toys must be checked frequently for safety. A list of household objects that can be used as playthings and a short list of recommended readings are provided. (RH)

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a guide for making developmental toys

No Bored Babies

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by

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illustrated by Debra Gould

Safety Note

When making your own toys:
- * Use lead-free paint
- * Use non-toxic glue
- * Sand wood so there are no splinters
- * No sharp points or edges
- * No small parts that can break off.

Remember:
- * Anything smaller than 1 x 2 inches can be swallowed
- * To check toys for breakage
- * Remove toys that are broken

(This applies to non-homemade toys, too.)

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HOW THIS GOT STARTED...

Like many mothers, I wanted to provide my child with a stimulating environment. I trusted the toys I had received as shower gifts would do this. But it didn't take me long to figure out that my son didn't find his toys as entertaining as adults did.

I started reading books on childhood development. From these books I figured out simple things I could put together. My son responded. I could tell he related to the Raggedy Ann face on the soft blocks I had made. He would grab the block and stare at the face. Such a different response from letting the pale yellow rattle fall from his hand every time I placed it there.

There are many "growth toys" on the market. They are for the most part expensive, designed for adults, and baby quickly becomes bored with them.

This book is designed to help you make things at home to develop your child's skills during the first two years of life. The ideas are easy and simple and may serve to help you develop some of your own designs. I hope you and your baby have a fun and productive time.

STAGE I

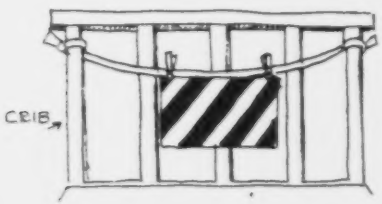
newborn to 6 weeks

In the first few weeks of life, your baby just needs to know he is being cared for and loved. But near the end of the first month your baby will be more interested in the world. Since his world is his crib or bassinet, mobiles and an "art museum" are the way to go.

Though your baby is lying on his back most of the time, he looks to the far right 90% of the time and the far left the remaining 10%. So place things to the far right or left, but not in the middle. Babies at this age see things best if placed about 7-9 inches away.

There are several ways to make these things available to your baby in his crib or bassinet.

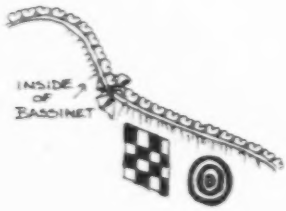
1. Attach clips or clothespins to a piece of elastic stretched across the crib bars.



2. Attach strings to a hook in the ceiling.

3. Attach strings to a coat hanger and suspend the hanger over the crib.

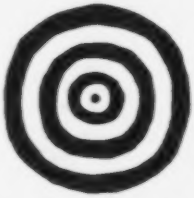
4. Tape pictures to the side of the crib or bassinet for "Baby's Art Museum."



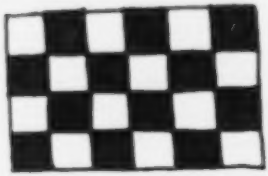
So what do you put on a mobile or in an "art museum." Pastel duck? Fluffy clouds? This is what adults may like, but babies are interested in contrasting and bright colors. They like bold patterns like checker boards and they are interested in the human face from the tip of the nose to the top of the head.

1. Sketch a picture of a human face. The nose, eyes, and hair should be the most prominent features. The picture should be about 6 inches by 7 inches and done in contrasting colors, preferably black and white. If you draw the picture on poster board it will hold its shape. Cut out your drawing to give it more definition.

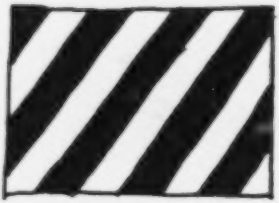
2. A bull's-eye pattern drawn on poster board or a styrofoam ball. This pattern should be about 5" round. Once again, use black and white or sharply contrasting colors.



3. A 5"x 5" checkerboard pattern drawn on poster board.



4. A 5" x 7" diagonal pattern.



5. Sketches or pictures of panda bears, zebras, or giraffes. These should be about 5" x 7". I found some stickers in a children's store that worked well against my son's white bassinet.

6. A 5"x 5" Sunburst Pattern

7. Ordinary household objects that illustrate different shapes, colors, and textures. These can range from foil pans, to bright yarns, to Christmas ornaments.

8. If you have an air current in the room, attach balloons, long fluttering ribbons, or scarves to the ceiling hook.

STAGE II

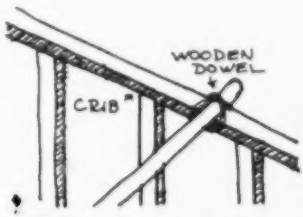
6 weeks to 3 months

At this stage your baby starts to look straight ahead. His hands open up. He wants to feel surfaces. He swipes and kicks at objects then tries to bring them to his mouth.

As your baby reaches out to touch things, it is time to move his fragile mobiles and "art museum" a yard away and replace them with safe, hanging "batting" toys.

If you have an adjustable crib it is best to put the mattress in the lowest position. This will facilitate hanging toys for batting and viewing.

Any colorful, light weight household objects that do not have sharp edges can be used for "batting" practice. Suspend these "toys" from a dowel, belt, necktie, bungie cord, or rope above baby's crib, infant seat or playpen. The toys should be 6-8 inches from baby.

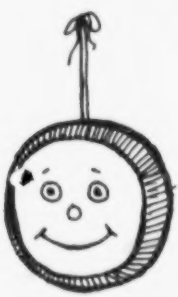


WHAT SHOULD YOU HANG....

Pictures of faces will still be a big hit with your stage II baby and he will now pay attention to 3 dimensional forms that are more complete. Try some of the following suggestions, or at least let them spark your imagination.

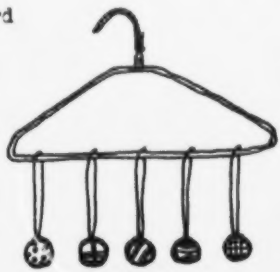
1. Balloons with faces drawn on them
2. Shiny plastic beach balls
3. Plastic streamers
4. "Wooly" ball
5. Light weight rattles
6. Rag dolls
7. Chiming ball
8. String of bells
9. Plastic measuring spoons
10. Empty spools of thread

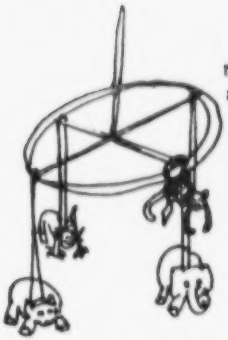
11. Foil pie pans-- Make variations by cutting a face out or attaching buttons or bells with yarn to the plate to make a percussion instrument.



12. Cardboard cubes about 10" square decorated with faces and patterns. Or, use an empty breakfast cereal box that has colorful designs on it. Rotate the cubes so baby gets a view of all six sides.

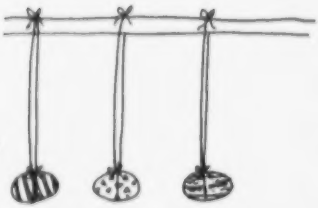
13. Attach 5 or 6 ping pong balls to a wire clothes hanger. Make a slit in ping pong balls and cardboard part of clothes hanger in order to attach string more securely. Use contact paper or cloth tape to make patterns on the balls.





14. A stuffed animal mobile can be made from 4 or 5 small 6-8" toy animals and a 8" metal ring tied together with string and strong yarn. Hang the animals facing down towards the baby .

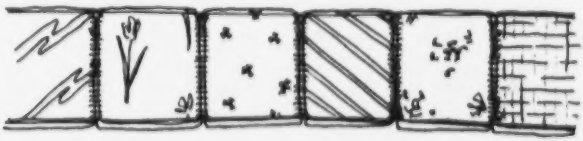
15. Dangling egg shaped rattles can be made from plastic easter egg candy holders or panty hose containers filled with buttons or dried beans and hung from a light weight string.



Safety Note: Eggs should be glued with epoxy. Be sure to check eggs often to make sure glue has not loosened.

Hang things near baby's hands. When he becomes bored, move them towards his feet so he can learn to kick.

16. Your baby also enjoys feeling surfaces with his own hands during this time. A "feelie" blanket can be made for use in the crib, car seat or stroller by sewing together swatches of 5 or 6 different fabrics each about 5" square.



You could use fake fur, velvet, burlap, vinyl, oilcloth, lace, terry cloth, brocade, silky or slippery fabrics. Sew together in a ring for use in car seat or stroller. For use in crib, tack corners with thread to dowel.

STAGE III

3 months to 6 months

Your baby at this stage is on his way to becoming an intelligent human being. Many parents feel like they are now dealing with a "person."

During this phase, he will acquire vision that is as good as an adult's and can engage in more focused eye-hand behavior. He is interested in exploring objects by grasping and chewing.

He will begin using both hands to pick up objects as well as transfer them from one hand to another.

Other new abilities include kicking and rolling over. Toys can be used to develop and work on these new skills.

If your baby spends a good part of his day having pleasant and exciting experiences, he will be better off than one who has to spend the day staring at the ceiling. You can very easily set up an environment for him to experience a lot of new things every day.

Once your child has entered the reaching and grasping stage, you should put away the batting toys. Objects that swing away when touched will be very frustrating to him.

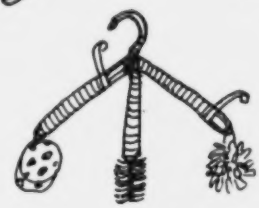
Safety Note: All toys from this stage on should be safe enough to put in the mouth. This means no sharp edges, points, loose parts or toxic finishes.

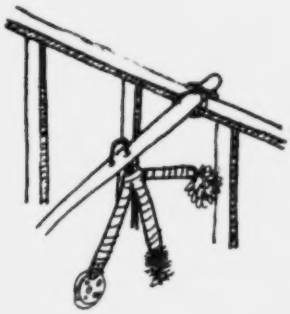
1. Your Basic Stage III piece of equipment is the CRIB STABILE. This stabile should be connected to a dowel (see stage II for directions). This makes a solid base to put objects for your child to explore without swinging away.

To make this stabile, take a wire clothes hanger, light weight string, 1 inch wide plastic or cloth tape and a bottle brush.

Bend the coat hanger in half to form two arms.

Secure the bottle brush to the center of the hanger with string. Wrap the arms of the hanger and the handle of the bottle brush with tape. Leave the ends of the hanger free to attach various objects.





Next, drill two holes approximately 2 inches apart in the crib dowel. These holes should be slightly to the right or left of the center of the dowel. Thread the hook of the hanger from the under side of the dowel. Then hook into the second hole from above.

You can use the stabile for many months. Change objects as your baby's interest dictates. Vary items for shape texture, color, pattern, and sound. Refer to stage II household "batting" toys for ideas.

2. Big fabric SOFT BLOCKS are great for babies first grasping. These are made from 6 fabric squares about 6 x 6 inches sewn together and stuffed with polyester stuffing or old nylons. You can put a couple of jingle bells inside the blocks to give them sound.

If you have a material that has bold patterns or faces, like Raggedy Ann or Andy, make the most of these pieces by centering the pattern or face on the block.

3. An UNBREAKABLE MIRROR which can be found in many stores that carry backpacking equipment provides a lot of entertainment for the stage III baby. Mount the mirror on a wall next to the changing table about seven inches away from baby's face.

4. CHEWABLE BOOKS can be made by putting colorful magazine pictures onto cardboard covered with plastic like the pages of a photo album. Cut pages in half to make it more "baby size." For best results, glue the pictures onto the cardboard.

5. LUMPY SOCKS for feeling shapes can be made with your old sock and some small objects such as marbles, bells, or thread spools stuffed inside. Fill sock about halfway with objects and tie open end in a knot.

Safety note: Be sure to mend any holes in sox, check sox frequently for holes, and remove sox as soon as baby gets teeth.

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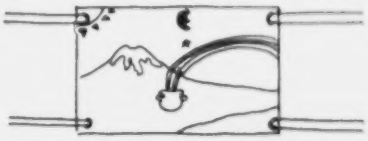
6. SPOON FACES made with wooden spoons and permanent, non-toxic, felt tip pens gives your baby a toy that has a hard texture to feel and gum. Draw a face on both sides of the spoon.

7. A KICKING BOX can be made from an old oatmeal box. Poke a hole in the bottom of the box and another in the lid. Thread a 5 foot section of string through the holes. Add some dried beans, uncooked rice, buttons and/or jingle bells to the box. Glue the lid on and tape around all ends.

Tie the ends of the string to the crib posts for the box to lie 1 1/2 inches above the mattress. Show your baby how to kick the box by guiding his feet through a couple of kicks. He'll take it from there.

8. A KICKING BOARD can be made by cutting a piece of 1/4 inch plywood into a 13 x 15 inch rectangle. Drill a hole in each corner, thread with 12 inch lengths of heavy 3/4 inch waist band elastic. Sand the plywood and paint a colorful design with acrylic or other non-toxic paint. Secure elastic to crib bars about 6 inches from foot of bed.



9. RATTLES can be made from plastic jars or bottles or container cans. Fill these with dried beans, rice or paper clips. Fill a clear plastic shampoo bottle with colored water and detergent or a couple of marbles.

Safety note: Be sure all lids are securely sealed.

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10. BRACELETS for the wrist and ankle can attract your baby's attention to his feet and hands if he has not yet noticed them. Attach a bell to some 1/4 inch elastic to fit wrist and ankle with a little overlap. You can use other bright colored objects as long as they are mouthable.

STAGE IV

6 months to 8 months

Experts claim that the foundations of intelligence are formed during this period of a baby's life. By staying aware of your child's abilities and interests you can elevate the quality of his daily experiences.

He needs to be able to play with some small objects and the opportunity to work simple mechanisms and solve very simple problems. He is exploring the cause and effect relationships his hands can have on objects--such as throwing a toy over the side of his crib or high chair. Baby watches the object fall and hears the sound it makes when it hits the floor. He will bang an object against a surface to hear the sound it will make.

Soon your baby will be able to sit on his own. His orientation to the world and playthings will change.

During these months he will also move about in his own fashion, whether it be scooting on his elbows or bottom, rocking back and forth on hands and knees or regular crawling.

Babies at this stage like to practice turning over, sitting alone, exercising their arms and legs. They are interested in sound, especially in their parent's voices.

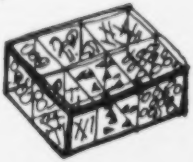
There are several household items that can be used to develop his new skills.

1. Collect caps from aerosol cans of different sizes and colors for STACKING AND NESTING TOYS.

2. String three or four empty spools on a shoe string and tie ends together. This makes a good SHAKING AND BANGING TOY.

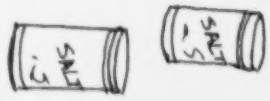
3. Make a RATTLE out of a plain wood, metal, or plastic embroidery hoop. Attach several key rings to the hoop. (Enough to make a slight racket!)

4. Make a RATTLE BOX from a clear plastic storage box that has several compartments. Into each compartment place a small or several small objects like buttons, sequins, wooden beads, or unpopped popcorn. Tape the box firmly with cloth tape. Check often for cracking.

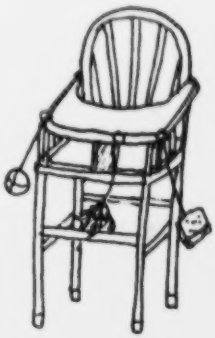


5. Use an old oatmeal box or coffee can for his first DRUM. Be sure to tape open ends so he won't cut himself. Let him use plastic, wooden or metal spoons to vary the sound.

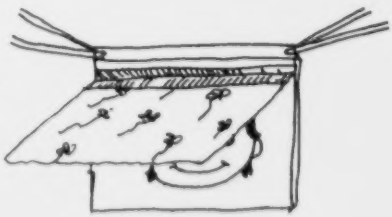
6. Make ROLLING CYLINDERS out of empty salt containers filled with dried beans or rocks. Tape container shut and cover end with contact paper. This will make a good MOVING TOY for the baby learning to crawl.



7. A HIGH CHAIR TOY RETRIEVAL DEVICE can be rigged up with 2 or 3 pieces of two foot long string and 2 or 3 different weighted objects. Attach a light weight sponge, some feathers (securely glued and tied) with string. Slit a tennis ball and push a knotted string through it. Your baby can check the cause and effect of throwing these various objects.



8. Make a PEEK-A-BOO BOOK by drawing a face on some cardboard then taping some fabric over the top to cover the face. You can punch holes in the cardboard and slip string through the holes to tie the board to the crib or playpen rails. Baby can discover the face behind the fabric every time he pulls the fabric up.



STAGE V

8 months to 14 months

Dealing with your baby at this stage is a tremendous challenge. Trying to balance the need of your child to explore everything he sees and your desire for his safety and the preservation of your home is difficult and frustrating.

Your household will be much less stressful if you can take the time to "baby proof" your home so your child does not have to be confined by playpen or gates.

Since curiosity is the single most important quality that a child needs for learning, you don't want to squelch him with a thousand "no's" every day.

Your baby will spend most of his time on three different activities. The first is watching and learning about the mother or primary caretaker. The second is exploring the house and all the objects in it. The third is mastering his motor skills.

He will speak his first words at around 12-14 months. His method of moving around will change dramatically in this phase, from crawling to climbing, pulling to stand, "cruising" by holding on, and finally walking. Some very active 15 month old babies will also learn to run and ride 4 wheeled toys.

Your child will also develop his gross and fine motor skills while he works on manipulating small objects.

His preference of objects will be small, colorful, noisy, and irregularly shaped ones. Hinged objects such as doors, lids on boxes, and cardboard books are very fascinating to him.

A collection of different small objects in a container will be sure to keep his interest as he takes them out and examines them. Objects around the house that show cause and effect such as light switches, flashlights, dimmer switches, and drain stoppers will be fun for him.

More elaborate peek-a-boo games such as hiding a stuffed animal under a blanket or hiding yourself behind a chair will be a fun game.

The following ideas are helpful during this stage.

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1. A whole series of CUSTOM MADE BOOKS can be made from inexpensive photo albums with self adhesive pages. For simplicity, put only one picture on a page. Use pictures you find in catalogs, magazines, greeting cards and your own photographs. Consider making the following books:

* Photographs of relatives and friends
* Pictures of familiar objects such as spoon, crib, or chair
* Pictures of animals
* Pictures of food
* Pictures of plants, trees, and flowers
* Photographs of baby's favorite stuffed animals and toys
* Pictures of clothes

2. STACKING AND NESTING TOYS can be made from gallon, half-gallon, and quart size milk cartons. Simply cut cartons off at the top to make graduated size cubes. Glue fabric to the outside.

Tin cans of varying diameters and heights can also be used for stacking and nesting. Remove one end of each can. Pound down any sharp metal edges, and cover rims with a cloth tape. Decorate the outside of the cans with fabric or contact paper.

3. A set of NESTING OR TELESCOPING RINGS can be strung from the crib or playpen rails. Cut 4 or 5 rings from an empty container of orange juice, toilet paper roll, round oatmeal box, or round salt box. Vary the widths from 2-4 inches. Cover the rough edges with cloth tape. Cover the surfaces of the rings with contact paper. Thread the rings on heavy weight string and attach to crib rails.

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4. Collect 2 or 3 empty plastic bottles like those for shampoo, dishwashing liquid, or hand cream. Cut the bottles in half. Save the top half. Sand edges smooth with sandpaper. Punch holes in the various bottles. These containers will be fun in the bath or outdoor wading pool. Show your baby how to work the bottles with spouts.

5. FLOATING BATH TOYS can be made from a sponge and lightweight string. Wash the sponge to remove any paste, then cut in 3 pieces. Poke holes in sponge with an ice pick and thread string through the holes. Tie the ends of the string together. Point out to baby how the sponge changes when it gets wet.

A variation can be made with corks. Drill a hole in each cork and thread string through holes. Limit string size to 1 foot.

Safety note: These toys should be used during supervised play. Make sure baby doesn't bite off pieces of cork or sponge.

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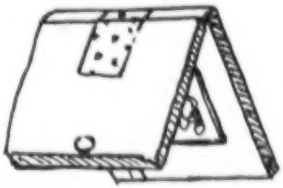
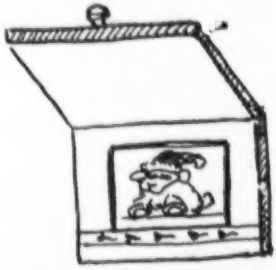
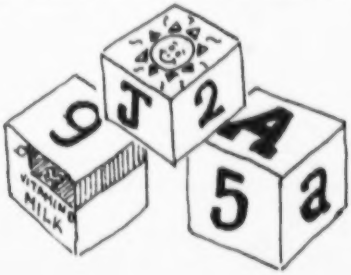
6. Babies at this age love hinged objects. You can make him his own CUPBOARD DOOR with a surprise inside. Take two pieces of 1/2 inch plywood 4 X 6 inches. Sand the plywood till surface and edges are smooth. Place these two pieces of board one on top of the other. Hinge boards by gluing a 4 X 6 inch piece of heavy fabric over one edge so fabric overlaps equally on both boards. Glue a wooden knob to one of the boards across from fabric hinge. Glue a photo or a magazine picture to the inside of the "cupboard." Change the picture every so often.





7. Make a collection of 30 or 40 objects. Find some cylindrical containers to put them in. Put about 5-10 items in each container and put containers in different spots around the house where baby likes to play. (See list of household play objects at back of book.)

8. LARGE BLOCKS can be made from bottoms of empty 1/2 gallon milk containers. For each block take two container bottoms and glue together. Decorate outside of blocks with pictures from magazines, numbers, or letters.



STAGE VI

14 months to 2 years

This period of your child's life is divided between exploring the world and a strong interest in the mother or primary caretaker. It is best for both of you to try and strike a balance between these interests. Try to be available to your child, but also try to make your home interesting so your child gets involved in independent playing for portions of the day.

Your toddler will also be mastering many motor skills such as walking, climbing, running, and jumping. Riding 4-wheeled vehicles challenges him.

In exploring the world he'll be examining qualities of objects and practicing simple skills such as dropping, throwing, opening, closing, and swinging doors, pouring water and sand. Operating switches and spinning wheels hold a great fascination for him.

Along with exploring the world and gaining control over his body, your child is also developing his sense of humor. He laughs at your antics and tries some of his own to make you laugh. He loves an audience. He loves the attention from being "cute." Your smiles are his reward.

But with the bonding that comes with this sense of humor, there is a negativeness which allows for autonomy. Thankfully, this usually is limited to 6 months and ends around the age of two. During this time it is best to strike a balance between letting your child have his way on occasion so he feels independent while continuing to set limits.

One of the great interests of children in this age group is water. Give him access to the sink, bathtub, dishpan, hose, or a kiddie pool. Add a couple of containers for channelling water and watch water become a favorite toy.

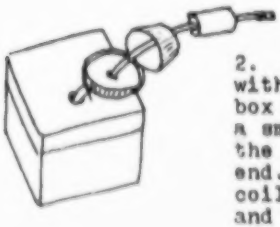
Another basic material is paper. Tissue paper, toilet paper, kleenex, wax paper, magazines, and junk mail all are potential toys. Cardboard and corrugated boxes, such as shoe boxes and gift boxes can hold your toddler's attention.

Books with stiff pages and recognizable illustrations fascinate this age group as will gymnastic equipment such as a small slide or a mini-jungle gym.

This age group also enjoys balls. A football, beach ball, tennis ball or ping pong ball all react differently when thrown. These balls also are a good way to involve parents or siblings in play with your toddler.

The following ideas may appeal to your child. If your toddler seems frustrated with any of them put them away until he is a little older.

1. Make a SHAPE SORTER from an empty disposable diaper box. Cut holes in the top to match the sizes of house hold objects such as blocks, ping pong balls, coasters, or plastic cookie cutters. Leave a large opening at one end of the box for retrieval of objects.



2. Make a large size BEAD STRINGER with automotive wire, a small lidded box and some household objects. Cut a small hole in the box lid. Coil the wire a couple of times at one end. Thread wire through the lid, coil side in. Place lid on box and tape closed. Tape exposed end of wire. Offer objects for stringing such as small foil pans, toilet paper rolls, plastic lids, or card board "donuts." Line any sharp edges of holes with cloth tape.

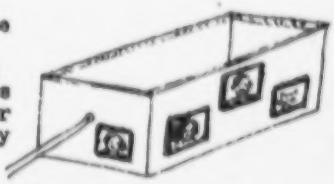
3. Using an empty egg carton and some different textured fabrics, you can teach your toddler about rough, smooth, soft, furry, and other "feels." Cut holes in 5 or 6 of the egg compartments. Attach fabrics to the cardboard circles about 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Wedge circles into egg compartments. Tape in place. Glue carton closed, then tape seam. Consider the following textures when making this box: sandpaper, cotton ball, tin foil, fake fur, terry cloth, silky fabric.

4. The same egg carton idea can be varied to make a smell experience box by using cotton balls soaked in different substances such as vanilla or almond extract, perfume, onion juice, etc. Talk about these different odors with your child. "This is sour. This is sweet."

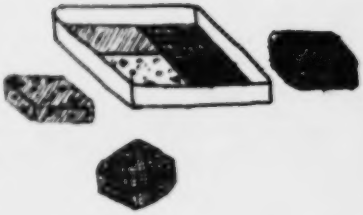
5. To teach object names and matching skills, cut out magazine pictures of 5 or 6 of baby's well known objects. Paste in the bottom of plastic bowls or tumblers. (Margarine containers work well for this.) Present to your child with the corresponding object. Encourage him to match them up. Objects for this could include an orange, apple, strawberry, ball, cork, spool, tooth brush, or comb.

6. With empty film canister or prescription bottles and small objects, you can teach your child about different sounds. Fill each canister with a different item such as unpopped popcorn, a penny, a button, metal snaps, paper clips, or a bolt. Epoxy lids to canister and allow to dry overnight.

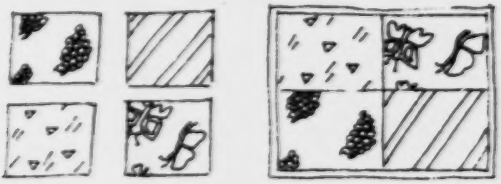
7. Make a PULL TOY from an empty shoe box. Punch a hole in the center of one end of the box. Slip a 2 foot length cord through the hole and make a knot on the inside. Cover the box with contact paper. Make windows from contrasting color paper and paste pictures of family members in the windows. It's the family car. He can take his toys for a ride.



8. A simple LEARNING PUZZLE can be made with a plastic sandwich container, 4 different colored sponges and 4 pieces of construction paper the same color as the sponges. Make a square 1/4 the size of the sandwich box. Cut that same size square from 4 different colors of construction paper that match. Paste squares to inside bottom of sandwich box. Cut a square from each sponge slightly smaller than the paper squares. Place the sponge squares on the color matched paper squares.



9. A variation of the learning puzzle can be made with cardboard and wrapping paper. Divide 1 piece of cardboard with pencil into four squares. Glue a different piece of wrapping paper to each section. Cut a second piece of cardboard into 4 sections the same size as the squares on the board. Cover each square with clear contact paper for durability. Encourage baby to match squares to board.



10. Another toy to make with an egg carton is a BEAN BAG BOX. Cut out 12 different shapes out of 2 x 3 inch assorted fabrics. Shapes can include hearts, squares, diamonds, or ovals. Fabrics can be velvet, corduroy, print, or vinyl. Fill shapes with beans, peas, or polyester filling. Place mini-bean bags in egg carton for baby to feel and transfer around. He can transfer bean bags from egg carton to muffin tin or ice cube tray.

11. Make a BALANCE BEAM from a wooden 1 x 4 board cut about 5 feet long. Sand the board to remove splinters. You may glue fabric to the edges of the board for decoration. Encourage your child to walk on the board by first walking on it yourself. Later, you can raise the board an inch by placing a book under each end.

12. Make PLAY DOUGH by using the following recipe.

1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1 tablespoon oil
2 teaspoon Cream of Tartar
1 cup water
a few drops of food coloring

Combine ingredients in a pot. Stir until thick. Form into a ball and store in a covered container.

13. Make an EDIBLE FINGER PAINT using the following recipe.

1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1 cup cold water
1/2 cup cornstarch
2 cups boiling water.

Add 1/4 cup cold water to gelatin and set aside. Mix 3/4 cup cold water with cornstarch in sauce pan and stir until smooth. Slowly stir boiling water into cornstarch mixture. Cook over medium heat. Stir mixture constantly until it boils and is clear. Remove from heat. Stir in gelatin mixture. Divide mixture into jars. Color with food coloring, fruit drink powder, soy sauce or grape juice. You can add flavors like vanilla, peppermint, lemon, or almond extract. Keep paint in refrigerator several days before using.

14. Make EDIBLE PASTE using the following recipe.

1/4 cup boiling water
1/2 cup flour

Stir flour into boiling water. Stir over low heat until shining and thick. Store in plastic container in refrigerator.

Household Objects As Playthings

Throughout this book household objects have been used as "toys." Play is important to your child. It is not only a means of entertainment, but a means of mastering skills and making connections. Your child may be more interested in your pots and pans than his plastic ducks because the pots make noise and the lids fit. This is learning. Here are a list of household toys. I'm sure as you search your drawers and cupboards you or your child will find more.

It is important to remember to check these household toys for safety. Make sure there are no sharp edges or splinters.

* Pots and pans with fitted lids
* Sets of measuring cups and spoons
* Empty milk cartons
* Oatmeal boxes
* Plastic jars and lids
* Magazine pictures
* Unbreakable plastic dishes, cups and coasters
* Empty spools of thread
* Empty boxes
* Cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towels
* Cottage cheese and margarine containers
* Wooden spoons
* Plastic cookie cutters
* Popsicle mold
* Meat baster
* Funnels
* Strainers
* Rubber spatula
* Bottle stopper
* Colander
* Pastry Brush
* Plastic ice cube tray
* Unbreakable mirror
* Plastic lazy susan
* Telephone wire, unplugged and coiled
* Flashlight
* Napkin rings
* Vacuum cleaner attachments
* Fingernail brush

* Shoe horn
* Bird call whistle
* Toothbrush
* Cassette tape box
* Key ring
* Band aid box with hinged lid
* Film cans
* Lids from aerosol cans
* Cardboard boxes

Recommended Reading.

Hagstrom, J., TRAVELING GAMES FOR BABIES A HANDBOOK OF GAMES FOR INFANTS TO FIVE YEAR OLDS, A & W Visual Library, New York, 1981

Karnes, Merle B., YOU AND YOUR SMALL WONDER, ACTIVITIES FOR BUSY PARENTS AND BABIES, American Guidance Service Circle Pines, MN, 1982

Levy, Janine, THE BABY EXERCISE BOOK, Pantheon Books, New York, 1975

Leach, Penelope, YOUR BABY AND CHILD, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1983

White, B.L., A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE FIRST THREE YEARS, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1980

The words "he" and "his" have been used throughout this book simply because I've patterned this book around my son. Of course, all the information presented applies to both sexes.

J.F.S.

NO BORED BABIES

a guide for making developmental toys

by

Jan Fisher Shea

if you have

string
glue
milk cartons
toilet paper rolls
sponges
corks
oatmeal boxes
wooden spoons
marking pens
hangers
coffee cans
egg cartons

&
a baby

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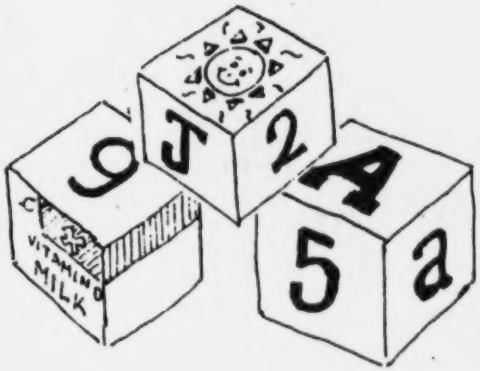
then you're ready for



NO BORED BABIES takes the reader step by step through baby's developmental stages--from newborn to two years of age. Each stage is packed with ideas for making toys appropriate to each new skill level.

The book is illustrated with line drawings and written in an informal style. The toys cost little or nothing to make.

This is an excellent handbook for the parent seeking to provide a challenging yet fun environment for their young child.

CONTENTS

STAGE I--Newborn to 6 Weeks
Visual Enrichment

STAGE II--6 Weeks to 3 Months
Focusing and Manipulating

STAGE III--3 to 6 Months
Reaching and Grasping

STAGE IV--6 to 9 Months
Testing Cause and Effect

STAGE V--9 to 14 Months
Exploring and Examining

STAGE VI--14 to 24 Months
Discovering the World

Please rush me _____ copies of "No Bored Babies" at $3.95 each, plus 55 cents to cover postage and handling. (Washington residents please add 31 cents for sales tax.

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